

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-02

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7739

UNCLAS GENEVA 0464

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SREF

SUBJ: ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES FROM SOVIET UNION

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED REQUEST FROM HIAS TO ASSIST IN SOLVING SERIOUS PROBLEM. HIAS NEEDS SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS TO MEET THE COSTS OF MOVING PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS OF USRP ELEGIBLE EX-USSR REFUGEES TO COUNTRY OF RESETTLEMENT. THESE ARE ALL POSSESSIONS WHICH REFUGEES ABLE TO TAKE INTO EXILE AND WHICH THEY CONSIDER INDISPENSIBLE TO THEIR SUCCESSFUL RESETTLEMENT AND INTEGRATION IN THEIR COUNTRY OF DESTINATION.

2. TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR THESE REFUGEES ARE PAID FROM ICEM LOAN FUND ACCOUNT NO. 4, THE COSTS FOR MOVEMENT OF EFFECTS HAS BEEN ADVANCED BY HIAS ON A LOAN BASIS. IN CY 1976 HIAS ESTIMATES THAT SHIPPING COSTS FOR EFFECTS WILL AMOUNT TO SOME \$1.5 MILLION FOR WHICH FUNDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE. THIS FIGURE IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

A. 6,000 EX-USSR REFUGEES AT \$250 PER CAPITA.

B. THE PER CAPITA FIGURE REFLECTS AN AVERAGE EXPERIENCE OF 500 KGS PER CAPITA AT A COST OF \$50 PER 100 KGS. THIS INCLUDES COST FOR HANDLING,

WAREHOUSING, SHPPING AND RELATED SERVICES.

3. HIAS REQUESTA AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH OULD MAKE USRP FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR FINANCING THESE SHIPPING
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COSTS, EITHER THROUGH ICEM LOAN FUND ACCOUNT NO. 4

OR DIRECTLY BY HIAS THROUGH THIS MISSION ALONG
SIMILAR LINES. HIAS IS NOW MAINTAINING INDIVIDUAL
CARD RECORDS SHOWING FUNDS ADVANCED TO REFUGEES AS
LOANS AND COLLECTIONS MADE FOR REPAYMENT OF LOANS.
WHEN COLLECTIONS ARE MADE, HIAS TURNS THEM OVER TO
ICEM FOR DEPOSIT TO THE LOAN FUND ACCOUNT.

4. MISSION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL OF HIAS' REQUEST
AND PROPOSES THAT \$1.5 MILLION BE WITHDRAWN FROM
LOAN FUND ACCOUNT NO. 3, WHERE PRESENT U.S. EQUITY
IS CONSIDERABLY OVERSUBSCRIBED AT AN ESTIMATED \$4,900,000.
THIS AMOUNT WOULD BE PLACED IN A SPECIAL MISSION ACCOUNT FROM
WHICH MISSION WOULD REIMBURSE HIAS AGAINST QUARTERLY INVOICES.
MISSION (HA) COULD THEN WORK OUTWITH HIAS A

REPAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR RECREDITING OF LOAN
COLLECTIONS TO MISSION ACCOUNT.

5. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST. DALE

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